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Reserve

NATIONAL FOREST USERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

Eastern Region

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TIME TO RELAX AT THE FOREST CAMPS



MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

Monongahela National Forest

Steeped in the historical lore of the first cross-mountain trend of colonial exploration and settlement, Monongahela National Forest stretches over the series of rugged slopes and fertile valleys forming the Southern Appalachians in West Virginia. Federal ownership in this unit comprises 792,796 acres within a purchase boundary of 1,673,652 acres.

Roughly oriented, Monongahela National Forest lies between U. S. Route No. 50 on the north; U. S. Route No. 60 on the south; U. S. Route No. 220 on the east and U. S. Route No. 219 and West Virginia Route No. 15 on the west. U. S. Routes Nos. 33 and 250 and State Routes Nos. 32 and 28 serve as cross roads between these highways.

In its work of protecting both the natural and the man-planted regrowth of these once virgin timberlands and in maintaining here the high forested watersheds of the Ohio, James, Potomac, Kanawha and lesser water courses, the U. S. Forest Service has accomplished necessary administrative improvements, many of which ideally serve, also, certain recreational ends. It has erected high fire-observation towers which afford fine panoramas of this geologically noted "ridge and valley province." For the access of fire fighters, it has constructed nearly 600 miles of forest motor roads and 500 miles of foot and horse trails. It has improved many miles of fishing streams. It has marked out wildlife management areas where the watchful may catch a glimpse of the wary denizens of the forest. In all of these the recreationist will find interests that may be enjoyed without undue interference with other management efforts. And then, for recreation in itself, it has selected certain naturally suitable areas and developed them, always in conformity with natural surroundings, specially for the enjoyment of the out-of-doors loving public.

PLACES TO GO FOR SUMMER RELAXATION

Improved recreational areas on national forests are known as Forest Camps and vary in size from a few acres to over 100 acres in extent. They offer facilities for picnicking, camping and other forms of recreational relaxation.

The larger recreational developments on Monongahela National Forest are the Stuart, Blue Bend, Horseshoe and Smoke Hole Forest Camps, while two smaller picnic areas are known as the Bickle Knob and Alpena Gap Forest Camps.

Each of the above contain picnic tables, fireplaces for cooking, safe drinking water, and sanitary facilities conveniently located. Picnic shelters or administration buildings offer cover in case of rain. Ample parking spaces have been provided.

Tent camping and swimming in clear mountain water may be enjoyed during June, July and August at Stuart, Blue Bend, Horseshoe, and Smoke Hole Forest Camps. Bathhouses where swimmers may change clothes are located convenient to parking areas. Red Cross life guards patrol the water and beaches.

(NOTE: Lockers are not provided at swimming beaches. Clothes and other personal belongings should be returned to the car where they can be locked up. The Forest Service cannot be responsible for personal property.)

Tent camping lots, which have been arranged to afford privacy and seclusion, are provided with tables and grates, while drinking water, sanitary facilities and firewood are located near at hand to make an outdoor vacation still more pleasant.

Old foot-trails lead to many points of interest within and near the Forest Camp areas. A nature trail is under construction at Blue Bend. Rustic benches have been placed at intervals along these trails.

Camping on unimproved areas on the Forest is permitted providing a campfire permit is first secured from the Ranger. Rangers are located at Parsons, Durbin, Petersburg, Marlinton and Richwood.

ROAD DIRECTIONS

Stuart Forest Camp, located on Shavers Fork of Cheat River, six miles east of Elkins, is accessible by way of U. S. Route No. 33.

Horseshoe Forest Camp, near Leadmine, is twelve miles from Parsons and may be reached by State Route No. 72 and the Forest Service Road. It is also accessible from U. S. Route No. 219 at the Preston-Tucker County line.

Blue Bend Forest Camp on Anthony Creek, twelve miles from White Sulphur Springs, is accessible over the Jericho Road or by way of Alvon over the Forest Highway.

Smoke Hole Forest Camp, near Upper Tract in Pendleton County, is accessible from U. S. Route No. 220 over five miles of the Forest Highway along the South Branch of the Potomac River.

Bickle Knob Forest Camp, ten miles east of Elkins, is accessible over U. S. Route No. 33 and Stuart Memorial Drive.

Alpena Gap Forest Camp along U. S. Route No. 33, fourteen miles east of Elkins.



Monongahela National Forest is your Forest. It extends its facilities, conveniences and advantages to you free of charge, trusting you will use them with consideration of the public interest and the rights of other people. You will find the Forest Camp Administrator a courteous guide and helper. Please consult him on your problems or report any misdemeanors to him.



MAP OF
MONONGAHELA
NATIONAL
FOREST

LEGEND

- FOREST BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROADS
- GRAVELED ROADS
- FOREST CAMPS
- FEDERAL HIGHWAY
- PRIMARY ROADS

SCALE: 1" = 11 MI.

